

## IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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# Status of the Iowa Workforce and Economy

## 2014 Statewide News Release Schedule

Reference Month	Statewide News Release	Local Area News Release
Dec	Jan 28	Jan 28
Jan	Mar 17	Mar 17
<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar 28</b>	<b>Mar 28</b>
Mar	Apr 18	Apr 22
Apr	May 16	May 20
May	June 20	June 24
June	July 18	July 22
July	Aug 18	Aug 19
Aug	Sept 19	Sept 23
Sept	Oct 21	Oct 21
Oct	Nov 21	Nov 25
Nov	Dec 19	Dec 23
Dec	Jan 27	Jan 27

## Iowa Nonfarm Employment by Quarter

	Average Employment	Percent Change from Prior Qtr
2012 - Qtr 1	1,503,500	0.6%
Qtr 2	1,508,000	0.3%
Qtr 3	1,510,800	0.2%
Qtr 4	1,513,600	0.2%
2013 - Qtr 1	1,519,900	0.4%
Qtr 2	1,523,800	0.3%
Qtr 3	1,534,400	0.7%
Qtr 4	1,542,900	0.6%

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Information Prepared by  
Labor Force and Occupational  
Analysis Bureau

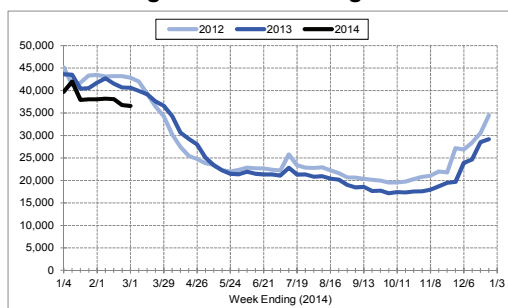
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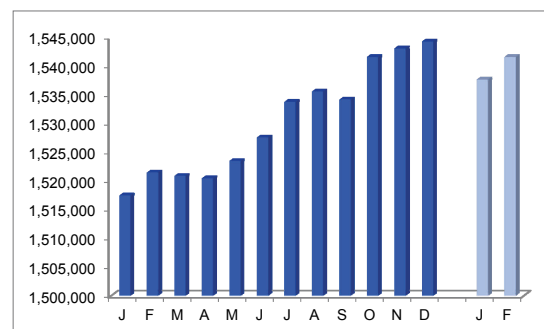
- Iowa's unemployment rate inched up to 4.4 percent in February from 4.3 percent in January, as the state's labor force increased by 6,700. The rate stood at 4.9 percent one year ago.
- The statewide labor force climbed to 1,684,500 in February, quickly closing in on the record of 1,695,100 set in January 2009.
- The U.S. unemployment rate rose to 6.7 percent in February from 6.6 percent in January. February marked the first increase in 14 months.

## Continued Weeks Claimed for Unemployment Insurance (UI) Regular State UI Program



- Regular UI continued weeks claims for the first two months of 2014 have been running about 8 percent below the previous year.
- A recovery in Europe and Japan, along with a faster pace of domestic growth, should support stronger business investment in 2014. There has never been a time when businesses have had so much cash and such light debt burdens.
- Inflation is expected to remain below two percent in 2014, increasing by close to 1.8 percent for the year. General price pressures tend to lag stronger economic growth by a year or more. The Consumer Price Index increased by 1.5 percent in 2013.

## Total Nonfarm Employment - Iowa 2013-2014



- Iowa's nonfarm employment increased to 1,541,500 in February, up 3,900 jobs from January. This was the fourth gain in the last five months.
- Retail trade added the most jobs in February (+1,800), rebounding from last month's sharp loss. Construction followed with a gain of 1,500 jobs.
- The state has gained 20,100 nonfarm jobs since February 2013. Education and health services led year-over-year job growth (+4,900), followed by trade and transportation (+4,100).
- Iowa's state and local governments have largely stopped shedding jobs, and are expected to begin adding to payrolls this spring. This is good news after nearly five years of job cuts that hit middle-income households the hardest.

## Iowa and U.S. Unemployment Rates - 2014

